

VEGETABLES

Vegetables: Vegetables in Washington accounted for \$391 million in 2005, up 33 percent from last year's total of \$295 million. Storage onions rebounded after a dismal 2004 crop year. Vegetable production resulted from 185,900 acres being harvested, a 15,100 acre decrease from last year's 200,200 acres harvested. The value per harvested acre for all vegetables was \$2,113, up from \$1,473 in 2004.

Onions: In terms of value of production, storage onions were the State's leading vegetable crop in 2005 and added \$98.9 million to the State's agricultural economy. This was over three the 2004 value of \$27.6 million. Storage onion prices jumped to \$9.60 per cwt., \$6.70 above the 2004 price received of \$2.90. Non-storage onion growers harvested 1,400 acres in 2005, 100 acres fewer than 2004. Non-storage onion prices in the last ten years have ranged from \$16.00 in 2004 to \$26.80 per cwt in 2003. This is much higher than the storage onion crop because Washington's non-storage onion, the "Walla Walla" sweet, is a unique, specialty onion with a low pungency flavor for fresh consumption.

Asparagus: Washington's asparagus harvested acreage dropped again in 2005 to 13,000 acres. Growers continued to be concerned about labor, marketing and prices for their commodity.

Prices averaged \$51.80 per cwt. in 2005, \$1.00 less than 2004. Total production for 2005 was 53.2 million pounds, with yields averaging 41 cwt. per acre. Asparagus added \$27.6 million to Washington's agricultural economy.

Carrots: Washington's processing carrot growers are the top producers in the Nation. They grew 122,220 tons for the 2005 crop. Processing carrots accounted for \$8.6 million of Washington's agricultural economy during 2005.

Sweet Corn: Processing sweet corn added \$54.7 million during 2005 to the agricultural sector, and was the number two vegetable crop in Washington in terms of value of production. The current 2005 crop of 792,160 tons was 4 percent less than the previous year. Fresh market sweet corn production jumped to to 28,500 ton the first increase in several years. With fairly strong prices in 2005, fresh sweet corn added \$14.9 million to the farming economy, up nearly \$6 million the 2004 crop.

Other Vegetables: The processing **green pea** crop added \$17.2 million to the agricultural economy during 2005, while **other fresh and processing vegetables** contributed an additional \$148 million.